1	TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
2	The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3	Bill No. 661 entitled "An act relating to licensure of mental health
4	professionals" respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5	recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6	clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
7	* * * Continuing Education Units; Psychologists * * *
8	Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 3015 is amended to read:
9	§ 3015. RENEWALS
10	(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the
11	required fee.
12	* * *
13	(d) Continuing education units.
14	(1) As a condition of renewal, the Board may shall require that licensees
15	establish that they have satisfied continuing education requirements established
16	by Board rule and this subsection.
17	(2) At least three continuing education units shall be in the area of
18	systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice.
19	(3) Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable
20	and accepted as live in-person training.

1	(4) Upon application, the Board may exempt from continuing education
2	requirements a licensee on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, if obtaining
3	continuing education credits would be impossible in practice or a significant
4	hardship for the licensee.
5	(5) If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health
6	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
7	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
8	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
9	licensee is licensed under this title.
10	* * * Continuing Education Units; Social Workers * * *
11	Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 3208 is amended to read:
12	§ 3208. RENEWALS
13	* * *
14	(d) As a condition of renewal, a licensee shall complete continuing
15	education, approved by the Director by rule, during the preceding two-year
16	period. For purposes of this subsection, the Director may require, by rule, not
17	more than 20 hours of approved continuing social work education as a
18	condition of renewal. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall
19	be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. At least three
20	continuing education units shall be in the area of systematic oppression and
21	anti-oppressive practice. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other menta

1	health professions under this title, continuing education units completed for
2	one mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing
3	education units for the other mental health profession or professions for which
4	the licensee is licensed under this title.
5	* * *
6	* * * Continuing Education Units; Alcohol and Drug Abuse
7	Counselors * * *
8	Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 3238 is amended to read:
9	§ 3238. BIENNIAL RENEWALS
10	(a) Licenses and certifications shall be renewed every two years on a
11	schedule set by the Office upon:
12	(1) payment Payment of the required fee; and.
13	(2) documentation <u>Documentation</u> that the applicant has completed at
14	least 40 hours of continuing education, approved by the Director. Synchronous
15	virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and accepted as live
16	in-person training. At least three continuing education units shall be in the
17	area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice. If the licensee is
18	licensed in one or more other mental health professions under this title,
19	continuing education units completed for one mental health profession shall
20	count toward the required continuing education units for the other mental

1	health profession or professions for which the licensee is licensed under this
2	title.
3	* * *
4	* * * Continuing Education Units; Clinical Mental Health
5	Counselors * * *
6	Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. § 3269 is amended to read:
7	§ 3269. RENEWALS
8	Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of required fees
9	and proof of such continuing education as the Board may require by rule and
10	as required by this section. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits
11	shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. At least three
12	continuing education units shall be in the area of systematic oppression and
13	anti-oppressive practice. If the licensee is licensed in one or more other menta
14	health professions under this title, continuing education units completed for
15	one mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing
16	education units for the other mental health profession or professions for which
17	the licensee is licensed under this title.

1	* * * Continuing Education Units; Marriage and Family
2	Therapists * * *
3	Sec. 5. 26 V.S.A. § 4040 is amended to read:
4	§ 4040. RENEWALS
5	(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the
6	required fee, provided the person applying for renewal has completed at least
7	20 hours of continuing education, approved by the Board, during the preceding
8	two-year period.
9	(1) The Board shall establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for
10	continuing education credit. Synchronous virtual continuing education credits
11	shall be approvable and accepted as live in-person training. At least three
12	continuing education units shall be in the area of systematic oppression and
13	anti-oppressive practice.
14	(2) The continuing education requirement shall not apply for the first
15	renewal period. <u>If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health</u>
16	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
17	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
18	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
19	licensee is licensed under this title.
20	* * *

1	* * * Continuing Education Units; Psychoanalysts * * *
2	Sec. 6. 26 V.S.A. § 4060 is amended to read:
3	§ 4060. RENEWALS
4	(a) Certification shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the
5	required fee, provided the person applying for renewal completes at least 20
6	hours of continuing education, approved by the Director, during the preceding
7	two-year period.
8	(1) The Director, with the advice of the advisor appointees, shall
9	establish, by rule, guidelines and criteria for continuing education credit.
10	Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable and
11	accepted as live in-person training. At least three continuing education units
12	shall be in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice.
13	(2) The education requirement shall not apply for the first renewal
14	period. <u>If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health</u>
15	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
16	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
17	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
18	licensee is licensed under this title.
19	* * *

1	* * * Continuing Education Units; Applied Behavior Analysists * * *
2	Sec. 7. 26 V.S.A. § 4925 is amended to read:
3	§ 4925. RENEWALS
4	* * *
5	(c) As a condition of renewal, the Director may by rule require that a
6	licensee establish that he or she the licensee has completed continuing
7	education.
8	(1) The Director may accept proof of current certification from the
9	Behavior Analyst Certification Board as evidence of continuing competency if
10	the Director finds that the maintenance of such certification implies
11	appropriate continuing education consistent with this subsection and Board
12	<u>rule</u> .
13	(2) Synchronous virtual continuing education credits shall be approvable
14	and accepted as live in-person training. At least three continuing education
15	units shall be in the area of systematic oppression and anti-oppressive practice.
16	(3) If the licensee is licensed in one or more other mental health
17	professions under this title, continuing education units completed for one
18	mental health profession shall count toward the required continuing education
19	units for the other mental health profession or professions for which the
20	licensee is licensed under this title.
21	* * *

1	* * * Mental Health Professional Licensure; Study * * *
2	Sec. 8. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE; STUDY
3	(a) Study. The Office of Professional Regulation shall conduct a study on:
4	(1) the possibility of streamlining the licensure of mental health
5	professionals practicing in the State, including a review of the feasibility of
6	creating one mental health professional license with endorsements for specific
7	mental health professions;
8	(2) whether additional regulation of supervisors for mental health
9	professionals in training is necessary, including a review of potential limits on
10	areas of mental health work a supervisor may supervise based on the
11	supervisor's own work experience and education, the rate or fee a supervisor
12	may charge for providing supervision, and the number of supervisees assigned
13	to one supervisor; and
14	(3) the barriers for individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or Persons of
15	Color (BIPOC), refugees and new Americans, individuals with low income,
16	those individuals with disabilities, and those individuals with lived mental
17	health and substance use experience entering mental health professions
18	regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.
19	(b) Stakeholder input. The Director of the Office of Professional
20	Regulation shall seek the input and recommendations of the following
21	stakeholders in completing the study:

1	(1) representatives of each mental health care profession associated
2	with the Office of Professional Regulation, selected by their respective
3	licensing board or by the Director;
4	(2) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee;
5	(3) the Commissioner of Health Equity or designee;
6	(4) representatives of mental health care professional organizations;
7	(5) representatives of health insurers;
8	(6) individuals in mental health care professions or seeking to enter
9	mental health care professions, selected by AALV, Inc., the Vermont
10	Commission on Native American Affairs, the Vermont Center for
11	Independent Living, and Outright Vermont; and
12	(7) other interested stakeholders, including individuals from diverse
13	backgrounds to represent the interests of communities of color and other
14	historically underrepresented populations in mental health care professions.
15	(c) Findings and recommendations. On or before December 15, 2024, the
16	<u>Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall provide the Office's</u>
17	findings and recommendations to the House Committees on Health Care and
18	on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Health and
19	Welfare and on Government Operations.

1	* * * Mental Health Professional Supervisors Registry * * *
2	Sec. 9. MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISORS; REGISTRY
3	The Office of Professional Regulation shall maintain a registry of mental
4	health professionals who are available to serve as supervisors for mental health
5	professionals in training. The registry shall begin upon passage and shall
6	contain a complete list by 2025.
7	* * * Effective Date * * *
8	Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE
9	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.
10	
11	
12	(Committee vote:)
13	
14	Representative
15	FOR THE COMMITTEE